



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information Is In Blue Text

Event Name	20-0003 COVID-19 2020
Date	November 18, 2020
Time	0900
Operational Period	November 17, 2020 to November 18, 2020
Report Number	244

Region	
Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	DDCs 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 9B, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, 16D, 17, 18A, 18B, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24 & Capitol

Current Situation: The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently reporting a total of 1,039,513 cases of COVID-19 in the State of Texas which includes an estimated 139,048 active cases, 883,223 individuals have recovered from the virus and 19,696 confirmed COVID-19 related fatalities. Across Texas, a total of 9,441,069 COVID-19 molecular tests have been completed.

Visit the Testing Sites Map online for testing locations near you.

<https://txdps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8bf7c6a436a64bfe9a5ce25be580e4ff>

View the Governor's Executive Orders issued:

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legaleaders/governors/displayDocs.cfm?govdoctypeID=5&governorID=45>

Websites to help Texans during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

The Governor's Report to Open Texas.

<https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>

Texas Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Page. <https://www.texas.gov/covid19/>

The Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas and a list of guidelines, openings, and relevant dates.

<https://open.texas.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services Family Violence Program.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/family-violence-program>

Texas Health and Human Services Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) and

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information-texans/pandemic-ebt-p-ebt-due-covid-19>

Texas Health and Human Services Mental Health and Substance Use Resources.
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/mental-health-substance-use-resources>

One Star Foundation, Texas COVID Relief Fund. <http://onestarfoundation.org/txcovidfund/>

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Help for Texans.
<https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>

Essential Services. <https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/>

Help essential workers in Texas locate child care and support child care centers.
<https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/>

Special WIC Food Updates. <https://texaswic.org/about-wic/special-wic-food-updates>

Comfort Food Care Packages (CFCP). <https://www.txrestaurant.org/news/comfort-food-care-packages-feed-youth-and-families-need-and-stay-open>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/>

Texas Health and Human Services. <https://hhs.texas.gov/>

Texans in need can apply for benefits, including SNAP and Medicaid.
<https://www.YourTexasBenefits.com>

To apply for unemployment benefits or to request payment
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/unemployment-benefits-services>

On November 13, Governor Abbot announced that DSHS is allocating an initial shipment of bamlanivimab, the Eli Lilly & Company monoclonal antibody therapy, to be distributed as early as next week to acute care hospitals across every geographic region of the state. These weekly shipments of doses were provided to the state at no cost through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). DSHS will allocate this initial distribution of bamlanivimab based on three criteria: new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the community, new lab-confirmed COVID-19 admissions to hospitals, and total lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in hospitals.

On November 11, Governor Abbott deployed additional resources to El Paso and Lubbock to help combat COVID-19 in these communities. These resources include medical personnel, medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), mobile testing sites, and more.

On November 10, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas has prepared allocation plans to swiftly distribute medicines and vaccines that are now becoming available to treat COVID-19. The State of Texas has already prepared to distribute the COVID-19 vaccines and medical treatments.

- DSHS has already developed a Vaccine Distribution Plan and is working with health care providers to enroll in their Immunization Program to be eligible to administer these vaccines once available. Over 2,500 providers have already enrolled in the program. DSHS formed an Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel to develop vaccine allocation strategies.
- The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is prepared to assist the swift distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. In late October, TDEM hosted the State of Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Virtual Tabletop Exercise – over 1,000 local, state, federal, and non-governmental organization partners came together to test the state's vaccine support plan, understand its operational procedures, and examine their roles and responsibilities.

On November 6, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has deployed three U.S. Air Force Medical Specialty Teams to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19 in El Paso. Governor Abbott also renewed the statewide disaster declaration for COVID-19.

On November 5, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will provide approximately \$202 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of November as the state continues its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On October 26, as part of the Trump Administration's comprehensive national effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to assist the nation's Governors in doing so, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is sending 8,730,000 state-of-the-art Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen tests to the State of Texas. The rapid point of care tests, which can diagnose coronavirus infection in as little as fifteen minutes, will be distributed at the discretion of Governor Greg Abbott to support testing K-12 students, teachers, nursing home patients and staff, higher education, critical infrastructure, first responders, and other priorities as he deems fit.

On October 25, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM is establishing an alternate care site in El Paso to expand hospital capacity in the region.

On October 24, Governor Abbott held a call with Dr. Robert Kadlec, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), to discuss hospital capacity needs in the City of El Paso.

On October 22, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM are surging additional medical personnel and equipment to the El Paso region to assist with the community's COVID-19 response also Governor Abbott announced that DSHS has secured 2.8 million doses of flu vaccine for the Texas Vaccines for Children Program and the new Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided one million flu vaccines to DSHS which will distribute them through the Adult Influenza Vaccine Initiative to adults who are at higher risk of COVID-19 infection or severe disease. The new program will make the vaccine available for people in certain groups:

- Health care employees, first responders, and other critical front-line workers.
- Staff and patients in long-term care facilities.
- People with underlying health conditions.

- People in racial and ethnic groups disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Uninsured and underinsured adults.

On October 16, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM have surged medical personnel, medical supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Panhandle and South Plains areas to support hospitals in their COVID-19 response. These resources will be concentrated in hospitals in Amarillo, Lubbock and the surrounding areas.

On October 15, TDEM updated the criteria for a county exemption from the Texas Executive Order GA-29 face-covering requirement. TDEM has promulgated the following criteria for a county exemption from the face-covering requirement of GA-29:

1. The county must have 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14-day period.
2. The county judge of a county with 30 or fewer new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14-day period must submit an exemption form affirmatively opting out.
3. If a county exceeds 30 new COVID-19 cases during a 14 day period, the county judge will be notified via email by TDEM, the county name will be removed from this website, and the county will be required to comply with all aspects of GA-29. After a 14 day waiting period, if the county has fewer than 30 new COVID-19 cases during the previous 14 day period, the county judge will be eligible to reapply for exemption. Visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/ga29/> for more details.

On October 14, Governor Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and TDEM announced the creation of a COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems. This program will help schools conduct rapid tests of district employees and students. Participating school systems include; Bob Hope School (Port Arthur), Fabens ISD, Grace Community School (Tyler), Granger ISD, Lampasas ISD, Longview ISD, Harlingen Consolidated ISD, and Ysleta ISD.

On October 12, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS and TDEM have surged medical personnel and PPE to El Paso to help combat COVID-19 and support hospitals in the region.

On October 9, Governor Abbott announced the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will receive more than \$20 million in additional federal funding for disaster crisis counseling services for Texans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is in addition to the \$5.8 million in FEMA crisis counseling funds health officials announced in May and will extend counseling services to 28 local mental health and behavioral health authorities in Texas.

On October 8, Governor Abbott amended the paragraph of Executive Order GA-31 that defines areas with high hospitalizations to read as follows, effective at 12:01 AM on October 14, 2020: Areas with high hospitalizations means any Trauma Service Area that has had seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity exceeds 15 percent, until such time as the Trauma Service Area has seven consecutive days in which the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity is 15 percent or less. A current list of areas with high hospitalizations will be maintained at www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031.

On October 7, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order to open bars and similar establishments at up to 50% capacity in conjunction with county officials. In hospital regions with low COVID-19 hospitalizations, County Judges will be able to opt their county into opening bars beginning October 14, provided they assist in enforcing health protocols. The Governor's Executive Order also increases the occupancy levels for all business establishments other than bars to 75%. Additionally, the Governor released a web video with his Executive Order, encouraging Texans to continue following best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in their communities. The video can be viewed on YouTube. View the Governor's Executive Order.

On October 7, Governor Abbott renewed the State Disaster Declaration for COVID-19.

On October 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.5 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to purchase plexiglass barriers and tents to allow for safe visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nursing facilities may apply for this funding through HHSC beginning October 5, 2020. For more details on how to apply for funding, visit the Texas HHS website.

On September 30, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is partnering with the State of Texas and local officials to offer temporary COVID-19 surge testing in McLennan County. HHS has allocated 40,000 COVID-19 tests for this effort. For hours of operation and registration details as well as future testing dates throughout October, visit www.covidwaco.com. Registration will be available on-site. Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will provide approximately \$196 million in emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits for the month of October as the state continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 25, Governor Abbott announced that Texas' major health insurers have agreed to continue reimbursing network health care providers for telehealth appointments at the same rate which they pay for office visits through the end of 2020. Also Governor Abbott announced the allocation of over \$171 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will primarily be used for targeted rental assistance for Texans at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction.

On September 17, Governor Abbot issued Executive Orders expanding occupancy levels at 75% for restaurants, retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing facilities, gyms and exercise facilities and classes, museums, and libraries, and re-authorizing elective surgeries for a majority of the state of Texas beginning September 21. A current list of areas with high hospitalizations will be maintained at www.dshs.texas.gov/ga3031.

Three of the 22 TSAs (S-Victoria, T-Laredo, and V-Lower Rio Grande Valley) must remain at 50% occupancy and continue postponing elective surgeries until the hospitalization metric requirements are met. These three TSAs contain the following counties: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy. New visitation guidance for eligible nursing homes, assisted living facilities, intermediate care facilities, home and community-based service providers, and inpatient hospice effective Thursday, September 24 while maintaining health and safety standards to mitigate COVID-19.

On September 7, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation extending his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19.

On August 31, Governor Abbott announced the Texas HHSC will provide approximately \$188 million in emergency SNAP food benefits for the month of September as Texas continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On August 21, Governor Abbott issued a statement after the federal government approved nearly \$1.4 billion in initial funds made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order. This funding will provide an additional \$300 per week in benefits for qualifying Texans receiving unemployment benefits.

On August 20, Governor Abbott announced that TEA, in partnership with Local Education Agencies, has procured more than 1 million personal devices and internet WiFi hotspots as part of the State's Operation Connectivity initiative also Governor Abbott announced that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has applied for additional unemployment benefit funding made available through President Trump's Lost Wage Assistance Executive Order.

On August 13, Governor Abbott traveled to El Paso to meet with state representatives and local leaders to discuss the community's response to COVID-19.

On August 12, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has extended operations for four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites in Harris County.

On August 11, Governor Abbott traveled to Beaumont and Victoria to hold a briefing with local officials and state representatives on the ongoing COVID-19 response in Jefferson County.

On August 8, Governor Abbott extended his Disaster Declaration for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. Originally issued on March 13, the Disaster Declaration provides the state a variety of resources to effectively serve Texans.

On August 7, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. HHS has established four temporary COVID-19 surge testing sites. Two testing sites in Houston and Pasadena began operations August 6, and two testing sites in Houston and Kingwood began operations on Monday, August 10. For hours of operation and registration details, visit www.doineedacovid19test.com.

On August 6, Governor Abbott announced that the Houston Astros and TDEM have teamed up to open a free COVID-19 testing site at Minute Maid Park in Houston. The testing site will be able to process 2,000 tests per day and began operations on Saturday, August 8. Testing will run from 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM seven days per week. To book an appointment and learn more, visit Texas.curativeinc.com.

On August 4, Governor Abbott visited the McAllen Convention Center for the opening of the temporary health care facility which will help increase the Rio Grande Valley's hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic also Governor Abbott visited the TDEM Warehouse in San Antonio where he provided an update on the state's distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Texas school districts for the 2020-2021 academic year. Governor Abbott also announced that President Trump has extended federal funding for the Texas National Guard's mission to help combat COVID-19 in communities across the state.

On July 31, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with Mayors, County Judges, Emergency Managers, Hospital Executives, State Legislators, and other local officials from the cities of Laredo and Eagle Pass to discuss ongoing efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On July 24, Governor Abbott and the Texas Military Department (TMD) announced Joint Task Force Texas, a newly formed partnership between the Texas National Guard and Active Duty and Reservists to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts in Texas.

Texas Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Thomas Suelzer, appointed as the dual-status commander, serves as the commander of both Texas National Guard and federal service members.

On July 23, The Office Of The Governor and Guadalupe Zamora, MD, of Zamora Medical Center released a new English-Spanish language public service announcement (PSA) urging communities to work together to protect vulnerable Texans from COVID-19.

On July 22, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will allocate an additional \$118 million in federal funding to support higher education in Texas, including \$93 million to help students continue or restart their progress toward earning a post-secondary credential or degree.

On July 21, Governor Abbott held virtual meetings with mayors, county judges, emergency managers, hospital executives, state legislators, and other local officials from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties to discuss the unified efforts to combat COVID-19 in these communities.

On July 19, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has sent five U.S. Navy teams to four locations in South and Southwest Texas to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

On July 17, Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, House Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance Committee Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Hinojosa, and House Appropriations Committee Chair Capriglione and Vice Chair Longoria announced that the State of Texas will allocate \$200 million in CARES Act funding to the TEA for the purchase of eLearning devices and home internet solutions to enable remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic for Texas students that lack connectivity.

On July 15, Governor Abbott announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide \$41 million in federal funds to assist cities and counties throughout the COVID-19 response.

On July 13, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Department of Defense has activated additional U.S. Army Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces (UAMTF) to assist the state's efforts to combat COVID-19.

On July 10, Governor Abbott extended the COVID-19 Disaster Proclamation to further mitigate the spread of the virus. He also announced that Omnicare, a CVS Health company, is partnering with the State of Texas to provide COVID-19 point of care testing for assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout the state

On July 9, Governor Abbott issued a Proclamation suspending elective surgeries in hospitals in all counties located within 11 Trauma Service Areas (TSAs) in Texas.

On July 8, Governor Abbott announced that the State of Texas will invest \$57 million in federal funds to maintain the state's need-based financial aid programs and keep more students enrolled at their colleges and universities.

On July 4, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing 448 cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 157 hospitals across Texas.

On July 2, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order requiring all Texans to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth in public spaces in counties with 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases, with few exceptions. The Governor also issued a proclamation giving mayors and county judges the ability to impose restrictions on some outdoor gatherings of over ten people, and making it mandatory that, with certain exceptions, people cannot be in groups larger than ten and must maintain six feet of social distancing from others.

On July 2, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced that \$2.67 billion in federal funding has been approved to support Texas hospitals that provide care for people receiving Medicaid.

On June 30, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$9 million in federal funding for nursing facilities to implement infection control. Also, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending elective surgeries at hospitals in Cameron, Hidalgo, Nueces, and Webb counties to help ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients in these communities.

On June 26, Governor Abbott issued an executive order limiting certain businesses and services as part of the state's effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. Governor Abbott also announced that the federal government has granted his request to extend operations of Community Based Testing Sites across Texas.

On June 25, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission enacted new emergency rules related to health and safety standards for child day care operations. Governor Abbott also issued an Executive Order to ensure hospital bed availability for COVID-19 patients as Texas faces an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

On June 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM, in partnership with the Texas Military Department (TMD), will begin distributing 3-ply surgical masks to every Texan who undergoes COVID-19 testing at state-run mobile test collection sites.

On June 23, As COVID-19 cases rise in Texas, Governor Abbott has expanded the ability of mayors and county judges to impose restrictions on outdoor gatherings of over 100 people.

On June 22, Governor Abbott provided an update on Texas' continued response to COVID-19.

On June 16, Governor Abbott and Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of the University of Texas (UT) System John Zerwas, MD, provided an update on Texas' hospital capacity

On June 11, Governor Abbott extended the Disaster Declaration for all counties in the State of Texas amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 9, Governor Abbott announced that DSHS is distributing additional cases of the antiviral drug Remdesivir to 85 hospitals across 34 counties in Texas.

On June 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM is coordinating with local officials, public health officials, and emergency management offices in cities across the state to identify and rapidly expand COVID-19 testing in underserved and minority communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus.

On June 3, Governor Abbott announced the third phase of the State of Texas' plan to safely open the economy while containing the spread of COVID-19. Under Phase III, effective immediately, all businesses in Texas will be able to operate at up to 50% capacity, with very limited exceptions.

On May 27, Governor Abbott and HHSC announced \$3.6 million in funding for nursing facilities to purchase tablets, webcams, and headphones to connect residents with their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On May 21, Governor Greg Abbott directed HHSC to expand COVID-19 testing to all patients, residents, and staff at the 23 state-operated inpatient psychiatric hospitals and living centers throughout Texas.

On May 15, Governor Abbott and TDEM announced that local fire departments in Texas are partnering with local public health authorities to provide testing in nursing homes throughout the state.

On May 14, Governor Abbott announced HHSC has received more than \$3 million in federal funding to provide shelter and services to survivors of family and domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Abbott also announced that the Texas National Guard has activated Facilities Disinfection Teams to support Texans in nursing homes and to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

On May 13, Governor Abbott waived license renewal late fees that accrued between March 13 and June 15, 2020 for occupational licenses issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).

On May 12, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide more than \$1 billion in food benefits through the federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program to families with children who have temporarily lost access to free or discounted school meals due to COVID-19-related school closures.

On May 11, Governor Abbott directed HHSC, TDEM, and DSHS to test 100% of residents and staff in Texas nursing homes.

On May 8, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) assistance funding to provide financial support to Texas' network of food banks.

On May 6, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has received \$5.8 million in federal funding to provide crisis counseling services to Texans who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 30, Governor Abbott announced that TWC has issued new guidance to unemployment claimants concerning their eligibility for unemployment benefits should they choose not to return to work at this time due to COVID-19.

On April 27, Governor Abbott announced the first phase of the State of Texas' ongoing plan to safely and strategically open Texas while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

On April 24, Governor Abbott announced that TDEM and DSHS have launched an online COVID-19 test collection map to help Texans locate test collection sites within their community also Governor Abbott and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced that Texas will provide Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) to Texans experiencing housing challenges due to COVID-19.

On April 23, Governor Abbott announced that Texas A&M Service will provide a series of free online trainings to help local officials understand, acquire, and administer federal assistance available to the state of Texas and municipalities through the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and recently passed CARES Act also Governor Abbott announced that HHSC will receive nearly \$54 million in federal funds to support older Texans and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 22, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain restrictions to allow Texas higher education institutions to transfer all unexpended student financial aid funds from the Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) program to other financial aid programs that do not have a work-study requirement to ensure students will continue receiving financial assistance.

On April 20, Governor Abbott announced that the Texas National Guard will be mobilizing more than 1,200 personnel as part of COVID-19 mobile testing teams (MTT).

With reports of elevated scams and fraudulent activity preying on the public and consumers disguised as COVID-19 relief and assistance, local, state and federal response includes guidance, investigation, and prosecution. See links below:

- Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus>
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: <https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus>
- Texas Attorney General: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov>
- US Attorney's Office: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndtx/report-covid-19-fraud>
- Federal Communications Commission: <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams>

On April 9, Governor Abbott announced that HHSC has adopted an emergency rule to temporarily allow more nurse aides to serve residents in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 response.

On April 8, Governor Abbott suspended certain statutes concerning appearance before a notary public to execute a self-proved will, a durable power of attorney, a medical power of attorney, a directive to physician, or an oath of an executor, administrator, or guardian. Governor Abbott also announced that his Public Safety Office (PSO) will provide a one- time

emergency waiver of the federally required cash or in-kind match contribution required for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Stop Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant funds also Governor Abbott announced that Texas HHSC will provide more than \$168 million in emergency SNAP food benefits to help Texans during the COVID-19 response.

On April 6, HHSC, Texas WIC, the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, is expanding the number of food items eligible for purchase through the program.

On April 5, Governor Abbott temporarily waived certain regulations to expand the health care workforce to assist with Texas' COVID-19 response.

On April 3, Governor Abbott held a press conference to provide an update on Texas hospital capacity. Texas has increased by over 140% since March 18.

On April 1, Governor Abbott and TDHCA took initial action to provide tenant-based rental assistance for Texans experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

On March 31, Governor Abbott announced the Comfort Food Care Package (CFCP) program to provide meals for at-risk youth and families in communities across Texas as the state responds to COVID-19.

On March 28, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations allowing for an expedited licensing reactivation process for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) in Texas. The Governor also waived certain licensing renewal regulations for Texas pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees.

On March 27, Governor Abbott announced the deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 176th Engineer Brigade also Governor Abbott waived certain Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) regulations to preserve and extend child care capacity for front line workers.

On March 25, Governor Abbott released a statement thanking President Trump for issuing a Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4485) for the State of Texas.

On March 23, Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Trump requesting a presidential declaration of a major disaster in Texas based on the continued impact of COVID-19.

Chief Nim Kidd has been designated the Governor's Authorized Representative and State Coordinating Officer, tasked with continuing his coordination with FEMA on all matters related to COVID-19.

On March 20, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers about unauthorized fraudulent coronavirus tests. Governor Abbott also announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has included the entire state of Texas in its Economic Injury Disaster Declaration and granted access to its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program.

On March 19, the Commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, issued a Public Health Disaster Declaration in Texas. Governor Abbott issued a proclamation suspending provisions of the Texas Election Code to allow political subdivisions to postpone their 2020 local elections. Governor Abbott and TEA announced a collaboration with Local Education Agencies (LEA) on the Texas Students Meal Finder Map which will allow Texas parents to locate LEA facilities serving meals in their communities.

On March 17, Governor Abbott waived certain regulations and directed that the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) issue an emergency rule, relating to telemedicine care for patients with state-regulated insurance plans.

On March 14, Governor Abbott, directed the Texas Medical Board (TMB) and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBN) to fast-track the temporary licensing of out-of-state physicians, physician assistants, certain retired physicians, nurses, and other license types to assist in Texas' response to COVID-19.

On March 13, the President of the United States Donald Trump declared that the COVID-19 global pandemic is a national emergency. On the same day, Governor Abbott issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat in the state and declared a state of disaster for all 254 counties in Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Commissioner Sid Miller announced TDA has been granted flexibility from the federal school meal program to allow Texas schools to continue to provide meals to students even if temporarily closed.

Texas COVID-19 Cases, November 17, 2020

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Anderson	3,065	Duval	543	Kenedy	11	Refugio	330
Andrews	896	Eastland	316	Kent	21	Roberts	23
Angelina	2,446	Ector	4,864	Kerr	816	Robertson	456
Aransas	375	Edwards	79	Kimble	60	Rockwall	2,414
Archer	207	El Paso	76,075	King	1	Runnels	325
Armstrong	37	Ellis	5,770	Kinney	83	Rusk	1,139
Atascosa	1,385	Erath	1,217	Kleberg	1,123	Sabine	117
Austin	546	Falls	721	Knox	116	San Augustine	243
Bailey	422	Fannin	904	La Salle	378	San Jacinto	250
Bandera	211	Fayette	566	Lamar	2,314	San Patricio	1,747
Bastrop	2,142	Fisher	140	Lamb	849	San Saba	270
Baylor	50	Floyd	184	Lampasas	344	Schleicher	98
Bee	1,925	Foard	25	Lavaca	1,297	Scurry	1,397
Bell	7,549	Fort Bend	18,785	Lee	261	Shackelford	46
Bexar	58,930	Franklin	239	Leon	417	Shelby	588
Blanco	171	Freestone	486	Liberty	2,382	Sherman	86
Borden	4	Frio	1,062	Limestone	708	Smith	5,366
Bosque	483	Gaines	796	Lipscomb	117	Somervell	217

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
Bowie	2,386	Galveston	13,696	Live Oak	411	Starr	3,742
Brazoria	13,364	Garza	156	Llano	245	Stephens	216
Brazos	8,675	Gillespie	423	Loving	3	Sterling	27
Brewster	391	Glasscock	25	Lubbock	26,145	Stonewall	24
Briscoe	37	Goliad	172	Lynn	290	Sutton	164
Brooks	380	Gonzales	1,184	Madison	816	Swisher	215
Brown	837	Gray	1,115	Marion	181	Tarrant	73,617
Burleson	578	Grayson	3,547	Martin	149	Taylor	2,958
Burnet	1,259	Gregg	2,973	Mason	128	Terrell	11
Caldwell	1,789	Grimes	1,266	Matagorda	1,172	Terry	811
Calhoun	958	Guadalupe	4,084	Maverick	4,662	Throckmorton	22
Callahan	180	Hale	3,446	McCulloch	261	Titus	1,706
Cameron	25,159	Hall	61	McLennan	12,323	Tom Green	3,057
Camp	432	Hamilton	258	McMullen	25	Travis	34,769
Carson	78	Hansford	220	Medina	1,353	Trinity	215
Cass	697	Hardeman	74	Menard	97	Tyler	282
Castro	407	Hardin	1,526	Midland	6,576	Upshur	573
Chambers	1,724	Harris	175,414	Milam	594	Upton	40
Cherokee	1,690	Harrison	1,204	Mills	114	Uvalde	1,001
Childress	790	Hartley	199	Mitchell	263	Val Verde	2,932
Clay	199	Haskell	93	Montague	433	Van Zandt	953
Cochran	147	Hays	6,720	Montgomery	13,602	Victoria	4,627
Coke	153	Hemphill	219	Moore	1,523	Walker	4,028
Coleman	169	Henderson	1,606	Morris	253	Waller	1,059
Collin	21,689	Hidalgo	37,580	Motley	19	Ward	296
Collingsworth	29	Hill	1,001	Nacogdoches	1,906	Washington	846
Colorado	543	Hockley	1,161	Navarro	1,630	Webb	17,450
Comal	3,027	Hood	1,373	Newton	192	Wharton	1,526
Comanche	408	Hopkins	776	Nolan	580	Wheeler	191
Concho	177	Houston	454	Nueces	16,734	Wichita	5,558
Cooke	655	Howard	1,516	Ochiltree	536	Wilbarger	539
Coryell	2,199	Hudspeth	145	Oldham	31	Willacy	1,299
Cottle	45	Hunt	2,400	Orange	2,384	Williamson	11,016
Crane	155	Hutchinson	584	Palo Pinto	837	Wilson	1,049
Crockett	209	Irion	16	Panola	519	Winkler	234
Crosby	162	Jack	201	Parker	3,076	Wise	1,249
Culberson	148	Jackson	727	Parmer	653	Wood	805
Dallam	424	Jasper	530	Pecos	659	Yoakum	525
Dallas	110,717	Jeff Davis	30	Polk	983	Young	754
Dawson	1,088	Jefferson	9,368	Potter	10,640	Zapata	423

County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases	County of Residence	Cases
DeWitt	1,167	Jim Hogg	194	Presidio	237	Zavala	534
Deaf Smith	1,212	Jim Wells	1,863	Rains	138	Total	1,039,513
Delta	44	Johnson	4,509	Randall	8,405		
Denton	17,157	Jones	1,578	Reagan	143		
Dickens	64	Karnes	981	Real	128		
Dimmit	328	Kaufman	4,119	Red River	213		
Donley	101	Kendall	456	Reeves	412		

DSHS will update the state case count each day by 4:00 PM Central Time.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Protect vulnerable populations.
3. Support rapid & effective response.
4. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
5. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.
6. Expand and maximize bed capacity.
7. Develop alternative care sites to support local governments and the health care systems.
8. Acquire supplies/equipment to support health care and testing.
9. Ensure visibility on progression of the disease.
10. Support local governments

Region 1 Situation:

DDC 6 Tyler: (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

Anderson County: Palestine High School will cease in person learning starting Thursday November 12 and transition to all virtual, in person classes will resume the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Harrison County: Elysian Fields Elementary School will be closed starting Monday, November 9 through Friday, November 20 to support the ongoing goal of containing the spread of COVID-19.

Rusk County: Rusk ISD has closed G.W. Bradford School (grades Pre-K through first grade) due to COVID-19. They will be transitioned to their online training program. The return date is unknown at this time.

Smith County: Troup Middle School will be transitioning to online learning until the Thanksgiving Holidays and then remain closed through November 30.

Upshur County: New Diana Independent School District (ISD) closes both the middle and high schools until November 30 due to increases in COVID-19 coronavirus cases.

Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9, and 10)

DDC 8 – El Paso (Includes: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties)

El Paso County: Judge issued a Stay at Home/Stay Safe Order on November 12, 2020 through December 1, 2020 for all residents within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

DDC 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young Counties)

Wilbarger County: Both, Vernon and Northside ISDs have gone to virtual learning until November 30.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas State Operations Center remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), as well as severe weather messages, and preparing Snapshots and the state SITREP. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the State Operations Center, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): [Pony Express Team members made the following deliveries/retrievals yesterday:](#)

- [9 bundles or pallets prepared at Armories](#)
- [22 PPE deliveries to schools, county/governmental facilities, Fire Dept.](#)
- [3 PPE deliveries to/pickups by Skilled Nursing Facilities & Medical offices](#)
- [1 Pick-up or delivery of test specimen kits](#)
- [34,794 Binax tests & PPE delivered to 22 School Districts](#)
- [560 Binax tests delivered to 2 Nursing Home](#)

Two DAR agents received specimens at armories/airports from two QRF collection site after closing and transferred them to airports or reefer trucks to be taken to Austin for distribution to laboratories. [Fourteen DAR agents are coordinating with test sites to ensure deliveries of kits to the Courier.](#) One agent delivered samples to DSHS laboratory.

[DAR Agents are assisting TEEX with preparation and delivery of testing kits, and delivery and activation of phones for school testing.](#)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): TEEX continues to coordinate operations from the SOC and the 8 IST Resource Staging Areas (RSA) throughout Texas in 11 distribution locations. TEEX currently has 72 personnel deployed to support ongoing response activities throughout the state. RELLIS Campus operating in support of TDEM equipment reconstitution efforts.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): TFS has mobilized 25 personnel in support of COVID-19 response. Resources are providing operational, planning, and logistical support to TDEM.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): The TAHC supports assessing Texas animals for COVID-19 testing and tracks testing results: to date, 20 animals in Texas have tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. TAHC has conducted 77 Animal Assessments.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage.
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/covid-19/tceq-preparedness-responsibilities-covid-19>

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR):

- TDLR continues to update their website's COVID-19 page (<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/covid19.htm>) with the latest developments affecting their licensees and the public.
- TDLR has extended their agency's current work from home initiative through January 5, 2021.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS Texas Highway Patrol (THP) is currently providing:

- THP continues to have a liaison at the State Operations Center currently assisting with "Pony Express" Rural COVID-19 Testing Sites by coordinating ground transportation of the collected samples for THP/CID to transport to the designated labs for processing.
- Since April 24, DPS Aviation has performed 357 flights, transported 1,561 coolers of samples and has 1,126 hours of flight time.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS Call Center Activities:
The Call Center has received 28,698 calls and 26,137 emails to date. The Call Center will operate Monday-Friday from 8:00AM -6:00PM and Saturday-Sunday from 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

DSHS continues to utilize the additional State and Federal resources deployed to El Paso County in response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases.

DSHS continues to utilize the additional State resources to the Texas Panhandle (Amarillo and Lubbock) in response to the increased number of COVID-19 cases.

A total of 2,030 LTC facilities have been tested by Rapid Assessment (RA) teams in response to the Governor's orders to test all Nursing Home staff and residents.

Texas Education Agency (TEA): To view TEA support and guidance for school districts regarding COVID-19 please visit <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/safe-and-healthy-schools/coronavirus-covid-19-support-and-guidance>.

COVID-19 Rapid Testing Pilot Program for Texas school systems update: (BinaxNOW School Testing Project)

Number of Schools Districts/Systems:

- 519 school districts/systems have opted in.
- 443 schools districts/systems have received initial allocation.
- 46 schools districts/systems have their initial delivery scheduled.
- 30 schools districts/systems are in progress (Notification to responsible RSA and waiting to schedule delivery).

Number of Tests*

- 919,108 tests have been requested (this number decreased from yesterday due to data clean-up, primarily with multi-campus charter schools).
- 869,100 tests have already been distributed.

*Number distributed will eventually exceed number requested due to delivery of full box quantities

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF): [EMTF continues to support COVID-19 response in 8 EMTF Regions with 104 personnel across the state.](#)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC temporarily suspended non-essential visits to State Hospitals and State Supported Living Centers.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD currently has [784](#) personnel in support of the COVID-19 Response. TMD General Support Units are staged in Tyler, Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Corpus Christi, Weslaco, and Midland to implement the TDEM distribution plan to the RACs. TMD is assisting TDEM with warehouse distribution of PPE. TMD has supported Community Based Test site operations, testing a total of [568,237](#) people and are currently testing at six sites in Houston (2), [Alice, Sonora, Tivoli, and Port Isabel](#). TMD has disinfected a total of [12,661,529](#) square feet. TMD personnel continue to support the following Food Banks: Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, North Texas, Coastal Bend, San Antonio, Houston Area, and Tarrant Area. TMD have distributed of 147,193,186 lbs. of food to date.

Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC): PUC has created a link specific for COVID-19 on our public webpage. <http://www.puc.texas.gov/covid-19/>

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC):

Unemployment Insurance:

- Call centers are open 7 days a week 7:00 AM-7:00 PM.
- TWC Website, Information for COVID-19 [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Expanded the number of people doing pin and password resets.

Texas Wing - Civil Air Patrol (CAP): On November 13, CAP delivered 2 boxes; 82 samples from Redbird to Austin.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
AgriLife, TAMUS	Specialists/Admin	22		Activated	College Station
AgriLife, TAMUS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
AgriLife, TAMUS	DAR Extension Agents	15	15	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife, TAMUS	Incident Support Teams	16	16	Assigned	Regional Advisory Council Areas
TEEX, TAMUS	SOC Liaisons	6		Assigned	Remote SOC/Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	11		Assigned	Austin
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	9		Assigned	Corpus Christi / Weslaco
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	3		Assigned	Dallas
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	10		Assigned	El Paso / Midland
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	14		Assigned	San Antonio
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	6		Assigned	Tyler
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	3		Assigned	Lubbock
TEEX, TAMUS	Incident Support Team (IST)	7		Assigned	Houston
TEEX, TAMUS	Remote Support	3		Assigned	TDEM Equip Reconstitution
TFS, A&M	ESB/ESF 4 Representative	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TFS, A&M	EOC Support	3		Assigned	College Station
TFS, A&M	Logistical Support	9		Assigned	San Antonio Warehouse
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	4	4	Assigned	Grand Prairie
TFS, A&M	TIFMAS Logistical Support	8	8	Assigned	Fort Worth
DPS-THP	Liaison	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS-THP	Personnel	4	4	Assigned	Dallas County
DPS-THP	HSOC GIS Specialist	1	1	Assigned	SOC/Austin
DPS THP	Troopers			Assigned	Statewide
DPS CID	Special Agents			Assigned	Statewide

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
DPS COMMS	Command Trailer		1	Assigned	Austin
DPS Aviation	Aviation			Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Task Force Leader	1		Assigned	Hidalgo County
DSHS	Air Medical MIST	2		Assigned	El Paso County
DSHS	Air Medical Strike Teams (x2)	20		Assigned	El Paso County
DSHS	MIST, MTTs & RA-QRF	102		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	EMTF State Coordinating Office (SCO)	6		Assigned	SOC
DSHS	Angel Med Surge	1,508		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Maxim Med Surge	1,113		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	BCFS Med Surge	4,834		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Case Investigators	3		Assigned	PHR 6/5S Hardin Co.
DSHS	Infection Control Practitioner	10		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Epidemiologists	33		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Data Entry Spec	8		Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	Fatality Management Trailer (FMT) - HPP		16	Assigned	HPPs
DSHS	FMT - DSHS		2	Assigned	Hidalgo & Webb Counties
DSHS	FMT - FEMA		33	Assigned	Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Montgomery, Nueces, Randall, Smith, Starr, Travis Counties
HHSC	SOC Liaison	4		Assigned	SOC/Austin
PUC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Virtual
TAHC	TAHC Staff	1		Assigned	Virtual
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TDLR	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Remote
TEA	SOC Liaison	2		Assigned	Remote
TMD	SOC Military Desk	2		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	SOC Food Unit	1		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	SOC Logs Veters	11		Assigned	SOC/Austin
TMD	ABS MRP	2		Assigned	Austin
TMD	Lone Star HQ	45		Assigned	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	RHQ East	32		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RHQ North	22		Assigned	Austin
TMD	RHQ West	33		Assigned	Austin
TMD	MTS #1	15		Assigned	Houston
TMD	MTS #2	16		Released	Alice
TMD	MTS #4	15		Assigned	Sonora
TMD	MTS #7	16		Assigned	Port Isabel
TMD	MTS #8	15		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	MTS #11	15		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	MTS #13	15		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	MTS #15	16		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	MTS #21	16		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	TF RED HQ (TF LONESTAR)	14		Assigned	Austin
TMD	FDT #1	16		Assigned	Camp Swift
TMD	FDT #2	15		Assigned	Austin
TMD	FDT #9	16		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	TF RSA HQ	11		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU Tyler	25		Assigned	Tyler
TMD	RSA-GSU Redbird	4		Assigned	Redbird
TMD	RSA-GSU Lubbock	28		Assigned	Lubbock
TMD	RSA-GSU El Paso	23		Assigned	El Paso
TMD	RSA-GSU TDEM SSA	12		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU ABIA	28		Assigned	Austin-ABIA
TMD	RSA-GSU San Antonio	37		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	RSA-GSU Westheimer	23		Assigned	Westheimer
TMD	RSA-GSU Corpus	23		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	RSA-GSU Weslaco	11		Assigned	Weslaco
TMD	RSA-GSU Midland	7		Assigned	Midland
TMD	TF Longhorn HQ	35		Assigned	Austin
TMD	TF GS HQ	9		Assigned	Houston
TMD	HQ North	4		Assigned	Tarrant
TMD	North Texas Food Bank	34		Assigned	Dallas
TMD	Tarrant Area Food Bank	26		Assigned	Tarrant
TMD	San Antonio Food Bank	15		Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	Coastal Bend Food Bank	6		Assigned	Corpus Christi
TMD	Houston Food Bank	56		Assigned	Houston
TMD	South Texas Food Bank	12		Assigned	Laredo

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TMD	Rio Grande Valley Food Bank	9		Assigned	RGV
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I (Emergency Conditions)
Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: <https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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